Course Concentrations for Arts, Science, Education, and Management

Students Interested in the Social Dimensions of Health and Health Care

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COURSE CONCENTRATIONS FOR ARTS, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND MANAGEMENT

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Throughout the University, many departments, some not traditionally linked to the helping professions, are offering courses dealing with a range of health related issues. These courses reflect an increase in popular concern which is evident under various guises in the electronic media, the daily press and in specialized popular publications. Further, the recent development of research institutes, scholarly societies and sub-sections of them express related but perhaps more discipline-oriented interests (e.g., the Society for Health and Human Values; the Hastings Center (Institute of Society, Ethics Centre de Bioéthique, Institut de recherches Cliniques de Montréal; Association for the Behavioural Sciences and Medical Education; Medical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association, etc.). Journals and university positions now exist in the following areas: psycho-social epidemiology, behavioural medicine, medical ethics, history of medicine, religion and medicine, medical sociology and anthropology, health care economics.

Further, basic training in many health professions now incorporates "applied" social science and humanities perspectives as core concerns. Scholars trained in traditional arts and science disciplines are now routinely appointed to faculties and schools of medicine, nursing, social work, management, etc. Emerging health care specialties (e.g., Family Medicine) even more centrally identify with issues touching "arts" and related disciplines.

Students in arts and science disciplines who are headed toward careers in the health professions should be aware of these emerging concerns and the knowledge and perspectives which they are generating. They need to become aware of the emerging career opportunities which are being created by them. They, and other general students, should have the opportunity to reflect on their own health and on the health care which society provides, in the light of innovative thought, research, and practice. They need the chance to consider the broad implications of all this for their own and society's future before they become committed to professional career interests and applied knowledge. They need to develop their capacity for continuing and creative reflection on their future positions in society. Influential thinkers, in all of the health care disciplines have stressed the desirability of exposure to this sort of learning as preparation for professional studies.

Since McGill offers individual courses in these areas, the University can be said to fulfill its responsibilities in this respect. However, the fact that course descriptions are scattered throughout our bulletins, and listed only under disciplinary headings, obscures the nature of their links to health concerns. It does not make them as available as they might be to students developing an interest in health careers or in the health dimensions of their lives. It does not encourage the interdisciplinary awareness which needs to occur in order for health-oriented students to be at the forefront of their particular disciplines or specialties. It makes knowledge in an exciting and increasingly integrated area seem parcelled out among vaguely related bits.

The informal concentrations proposed in this brochure allow students to construct a range of types of exposure to this area, according to individual interests and needs in ways which need not interfere with major program concentrations, in particular, McGill Bachelor's level programs. The

concentrations are called "informal" since they have no official university status, such as a departmental major or minor. They are merely ways of flexibly using available elective credits, within existing university programs, to concentrate on a health-related inter-disciplinary area. It is of course up to the individual student and his/her advisor to make sure that courses taken in these concentrations do not conflict with degree requirements and that departmental prerequisites for individual courses listed have either been fulfilled or waived.

The brochure first describes two courses recommended as introductory overviews of approaches, concepts and findings in the broad inter-disciplinary field which we have called "Social Dimensions of Health and Health Care". These courses can be taken with profit by persons interested in any of the specific purpose concentrations. Next, the brochure briefly describes five concentrations and ways in which each might appeal to students with specific interests. Each concentration description is followed by a listing of departmental course numbers, titles and professors. Students may refer to relevant faculty calendars for course descriptions. More detailed information about individual courses in the packages may be obtained from the professors concerned. Of course, students should feel free to construct other concentrations from the courses listed, and others which may be relevant among the University's offerings.

BE SURE TO VERIFY THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE COURSES IN CURRENT UNIVERSITY CALENDARS

General Courses Introductory to the Interdisciplinary Field

Anthropology 227A - Health and Illness in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Professor Lock

This course stresses the relativity of current western concepts and practices dealing with health and illness and the possibility of their evolution and integration with non-western concepts. It also introduces basic anthropological concepts and research findings useful for understanding health care institutions and various levels of practitioner-client relationships. This course fosters a certain distance from what is in one's own culture and value system, opening up the possibility of more reflective decision-making.

Sociology 225B - Medicine and Health in Modern Society
Professor Lella

An overview of health and health care institutions (mainly medical) and practitioner-client relationships in western society emphasizing Canada and Quebec. The course provides a basic sociological framework, concepts and findings for viewing "health" in our society stressing relations among health behaviour and health institutions at various levels as well as the interaction of these with political and economic institutions.

The course introduces factual and conceptual bases for analyzing and making critical judgments on health care policy issues and vis-a-vis personal career decisions. It also sensitizes the students to links among the various disciplines in the concentrations thus providing an introductory overview.

Packages or Concentrations

I. A General Overview for Students Intending to Enter Health Care Practice in Medicine, or Another Occupation.

This concentration provides a sampling of courses from other, more specialized concentrations. First, certain courses describe and analyze: the arrangements through which care is provided; the social, economic, and political forces which shape them; current changes and possibilities for the future. Students are taught to remain au courant in order to make informed choices, both for personal survival, and growth, and to make career contributions.

Other courses explore topics more closely related to day to day practice -- the social and psychological factors which influence the emergence of and response to illness and care among patients, and which influence their interaction with professionals.

Courses in medical ethics can help students systematically analyze and face the increasingly numerous, and acute dilemmas of right and wrong implied in current practice. Finally counselling and social work courses introduce students to concrete skills for dealing with the interpersonal dimensions of patient care.

In sum, this concentration provides a broad exposure to a range of disciplines and insights which are crucial to understanding health in contemporary society. It provides an introduction to concepts, research and interpersonal skills which can be later built upon in more specialized professional training.

Courses

Anthropology 227A - Health and Illness in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Professor Lock

Sociology 225B - Medicine and Health in Modern Society
Professor Lella

History 349A - Health and the Healer in Western History
Professor Weisz

Economics 440B - Health Economics
Professor Soderstrom

Philosophy 243A - Introduction to Biomedical Ethics
Professor Norton

Psychology 429A - Health Psychology
Professor Feuerstein

Sociology 309A - Sociology of Health and Illness

Sociology 310A - Sociology of Mental Disorder

Faculty of Education:

Educational Psychology and Counselling 460 Human Development

Educational Psychology and Counselling 401 Principles of Helping Relationships

II. Health and Health Care Institutions.

This concentration is for students who are interested in becoming health care practitioners oriented toward health care management and planning. It may also be of use for students with a general interest in the area of health care but who have no current career plans. The courses provide analyses of health-oriented issues and the social arrangements through which care is provided -- professions, hospital organizations, government, politics, economics, and the links among these.

Courses

Anthropology 227A - Health and Illness in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Professor Lock

Sociology 225B - Medicine and Health in Modern Society
Professor Lella

Sociology 316B - The Professions

Sociology 410A - Personal Service Organizations

History 349A - Health and the Healer in Western History
Professor Weisz

History 359B - Medicine, Politics and Society since 1789
Professor Weisz

Philosophy 343A - Philosophy and Medicine
Professor Norton

Economics 440B - Health Economics
Professor Soderstrom

Social Work 352AL - The Public Social Services in Canada
Professor McGilly

Social Work 462A - Poverty, Inequality and Capitalism

Faculty of Management:

Management 581 - Health Care Organization
Professor Roger Gosselin

Management 582 - Hospital Organization and Management
Professor Roger Gosselin

Faculty of Science:

Biology 246A - Modern Biology and the Predicament of Man
Professor Sattler

Biology 269A - Social Issues in Biology
Professors Southin, Fraser and Trasler

Biology 370B - Human Genetics in Practice
Professor Fraser

III. Behavioural Science, Health and Illness.

This concentration looks at phenomena of health and illness and the various social and psychological factors which influence them. Courses are scattered across the disciplines of sociology, psychology, social work, social and psychological foundations of education, and look, in particular, at the influence of individual and family developmental cycles, of life events and of broader social and cultural variables on the emergence of health and illness states.

This concentration would be of use to future health practitioners or to individuals planning a career of research in the area of health and illness in a wide range of disciplines.

Courses

Anthropology 227A - Health and Illness in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Professor Lock

Sociology 225B - Medicine and Health in Modern Society
Professor Lella

Sociology 309A - Sociology of Health and Illness

Sociology 310A - Sociology of Mental Disorder

Psychology 429A - Health Psychology
Professor Feuerstein

Faculty of Education:

Educational Psychology and Counselling 460 Human Development

Educational Psychology and Counselling 462 Small Group Processes in the Family

Educational Psychology and Counselling 464 Family Communication

Educational Psychology and Counselling 403 Human Sexuality for the Helping Professions

Faculty of Science:

Geography 300B - Geographical Aspects of Cultural Adaptation
Professor Hills

Psychology 201D - Psychology -- Perspectives on Human Nature
Professor Melzack

Psychology 203A - Emotion
Professor Binik (and a range of other psychology courses)

Biology 370B - Human Genetics in Practice
Professor Fraser

IV. Aging.

This concentration opens students up to a rapidly developing area, that of gerontology and geriatrics. The proportion of the population over 65 is rapidly expanding, and this has occasioned increased interest in the processes of aging and in the services and programs of which the elderly have need. The courses in this concentration introduce the student to basic concepts in the area of human development throughout the life cycle, to the influence of life events generally on the well-being of individuals, and to the psychology and social psychology of aging and of the elderly.

This concentration could be taken with profit by individuals in a range of health and social service training programs who hope to specialize in dealing with the elderly, as well as those who are interested, for personal reasons, in the developmental process and in aging.

Courses

Social Work 490B - Major Life Events
Professor MacLean

Social Work 463B - Social Work Practice with the Aged

Social Work 530A - Seminar on Social Perspectives on Aging I
Professors Marcus and MacLean

Social Work 531B - Seminar on Social Perspectives on Aging II
Professors Marcus and MacLean

Psychology 405B - Psychology of Aging

V. Client-Practitioner Relations, Basic Skills, and Settings.

The courses in this concentration, though drawn primarily from the professional fields of counselling and social work, provide an introduction to basic skills which any health care professional needs to develop for relating to clients. They also provide an analysis of a number of settings to which these skills must often be adapted.

Courses

Faculty of Education:

Educational Psychology and Counselling 401 Principles of Helping Relationships

Educational Psychology and Counselling 402 Group Processes and the Individual

Educational Psychology and Counselling 403 Human Sexuality for the Helping Professions

Educational Psychology and Counselling 404 Practicum in Interviewing Skills

Educational Psychology and Counselling 405 Crisis Intervention Processes

Educational Psychology and Counselling 406 Organizational Development

Educational Psychology and Counselling 407 Practicum in Group Leadership Skills

Faculty of Arts:

Sociology 410A - Personal Service Organizations

Social Work 464A - Industrial Social Work

Social Work 483B - Seminar on Minority Groups and Social Welfare
Carole Christensen

Social Work 484B - Seminar in Community Organization
Professor Torczyner

Social Work 451B - Children's Needs and Social Services
Professors Reichertz and Margaret Anne Smith